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Negro Culture in West Africa. By GEORGE W. ELLIS, K.C., F.R.G.S. 1914. 1 vol. Pp.290. Price \$2.15. G. W. Ellis, 3000 South State Street, Chicago, Ill.

In his *Negro Culture in West Africa*, Mr. Ellis gives the results of his studies in the social life of the Vai, a race of true negroes found chiefly in Liberia and a shrewd and capable people whose culture we are apt to underestimate. They are in the main Muhammedans who have been touched by Islamic culture to the extent that certain of them possess libraries of Arabic books covering a considerable range of subjects. The author describes their physical aspect and treats of their life in its economic, social, political, and religious phases. More than one-third of the book is devoted to Vai proverbs and folklore stories, which contain so largely the native philosophy of life. Perhaps the most striking feature in the culture of the Vai is that they alone among African negro tribes have invented a script which has been put into practical use. Specimen plates show the character of this script which is different from any of the written languages of the world.

The author, from his eight years' service as Secretary of the United States Legation in Liberia, and the investigations made by him during that period, is especially well-qualified to give an intimate and sympathetic picture of the life of a racial group which is destined to have much to do with forming the future of Liberia.

Frederick Starr, professor of anthropology in the University of Chicago, contributes an interesting introduction, in which he points out the necessity, to students of race development, of understanding the history and present status of such African tribes as the Vai.

The volume is an important and interesting contribution to the knowledge of negro culture in Africa.

Die Rehobother Bastards und das Bastardierungsproblem beim Menschen. By EUGEN FISCHER. Jena: Gustav Fischer. 1913. Pp. vii, 327.

Attempts to establish the Mendelian law have been made by experiments in the cross-breeding of plants and animals, but it has been much more difficult to work out the laws of heredity among men where experimentation is impossible. Dr. Fischer's contention is that the best results will be obtained not by a study of pure races but rather of those races where cross-breeding has taken place. For example, a study of the crossing of the white